

# The New GSLT

## Proposal

1st February, 2011 (revised 30th March, 2011)

### 1 Background

After the end of 2012 no further funds for the support of the national activities of GSLT will be available from Gothenburg. This proposal therefore concerns the national activities of GSLT from 1st January, 2013 and a transition period 2011–12.

### 2 PhD students

Graduate students registered at participating institutions who are conducting research in language technology may become GSLT graduate students. Proposals for the admission of graduate students to GSLT are made by their departments to the Academic Board. Normally the admissions exercise will be conducted twice a year so that students can be admitted to the school at the beginning of each semester. Affiliated graduate students have access to courses and other GSLT activities but will not normally receive financial assistance from GSLT and no academic requirements will be placed on the students by GSLT.

### 3 Courses

Participating institutions will collaborate on national courses and make course material available on the web. While there will be no central funding for this, it may be possible to obtain funds (perhaps associated with particular courses) on an *ad hoc* basis from Swedish, Nordic and European funding agencies.

## **4 Meetings and seminars**

The GSLT annual retreat remains as a focus of activity and an opportunity for members of the school to exchange ideas and welcome new students who have joined the school since the previous retreat. The retreat will be organized by the coordinators at an appropriate site and will thus may be placed in different parts of the country from year to year. GSLT will not provide funding for the retreat (unless external funds can be obtained) and thus it may be necessary to charge a fee to cover costs of the venue etc.

It may be desirable to organize other meetings such as student seminar meetings, workshops with industry, research workshops on specific themes on an *ad hoc* basis. SLTC, as a spin-off from GSLT's internal conference, has been supported by GSLT and generally overseen by GSLT's Academic Board. This could continue after 2012 though financial support for the conference would have to be found.

## **5 Curriculum development**

GSLT will not place restrictions on the study plans of students associated with the school other than that they should be conducting research in language technology. However, GSLT will create a recommended curriculum for Masters and PhD programmes in language technology and jointly update this from year to year. It may be worth considering whether GSLT could accredit certain degree programs as following the GSLT plan.

## **6 Computational resources**

GSLT will need a web site that is not connected to any of its particular participating institutions where it is easy to give permission to various individuals to edit the site and upload material (such as course material, information about meetings). A simple solution would be a Google site, but other solutions could also be considered.

Besides course material, the website should contain a schedule of GSLT activities and possibly an exchange where students and teachers can describe courses they would like to take or teach.

GSLT may also provide a server with the data collection currently held on the old

GSLT-server, although it is at present unclear how to fund a server and its maintenance after 2012.

## **7 Organization**

### **7.1 Academic board**

There will be an Academic Board with one representative from each of the participating universities. The participating universities will be responsible for choosing their representative. The Academic Board should meet (physically or virtually) at least once a year or as needed. The annual retreat presents an opportunity for a Board meeting.

### **7.2 Coordinators**

The Academic Board will choose three of its members to be coordinators (one coordinator and two co-coordinators) on an annual basis. Coordinators can be renewed and no more than two coordinators should be changed in any year in order to maintain continuity. The coordinators will conduct the day-to-day running of the school (making sure that appropriate courses are offered, new students are admitted, organizing meetings such as the retreat, organizing and administering any funding which becomes available). One way of funding coordinators' time would be through Heads of Departments allowing coordinators to count their effort administrative effort for GSLT as part of their departmental workplan (tjnstgringsplan). It would, of course be preferable to find external funding for this. The allocation of effort for the directors in the old GSLT was 20% for the director and 15% each for the co-directors. The new organization after 2012 should have at least 10% for the coordinator and 5% each for the co-coordinators but more might be desirable depending on the level of activity.

## **8 Participating institutions**

The Academic Board can decide to invite new institutions where graduate supervision in language technology is available to become associated with GSLT. If the institution provides a graduate programme related to language technology it will become a participating institution and thus be invited to provide a representative to the Academic Board.

The Academic Board will also request institutions which cease to be able to provide graduate supervision in language technology to leave GSLT.

## **9 Transition period**

The Gothenburg director will remain, if necessary, to the end of 2012 in order to take care of students remaining in the system from the old GSLT. Two coordinators will be chosen in 2011 in order to make a smooth transition to three coordinators. Academic Board meetings will be held at the retreat and at other times throughout the year as necessary.

The national activities of the school will gradually move to the new mode. For example, a form will be found for the new organization of courses and an external website can be set up with a gradual transfer of relevant information from the old site.

Students who are receiving funding from GSLT will be required to meet old GSLT's requirements. Funding provided for students will cease at the end of 2012 except in the case of any remaining students who have salary support due to them. This remaining salary support will be provided in accordance with the original offer made when the student was first appointed.